

Wolk Leonard W-
CABINET SIZE NUDE BUST

DRAWER 22

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SCULPTORS-V
(BUSTS)

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Leonard Wells Volk
Cabinet size nude bust

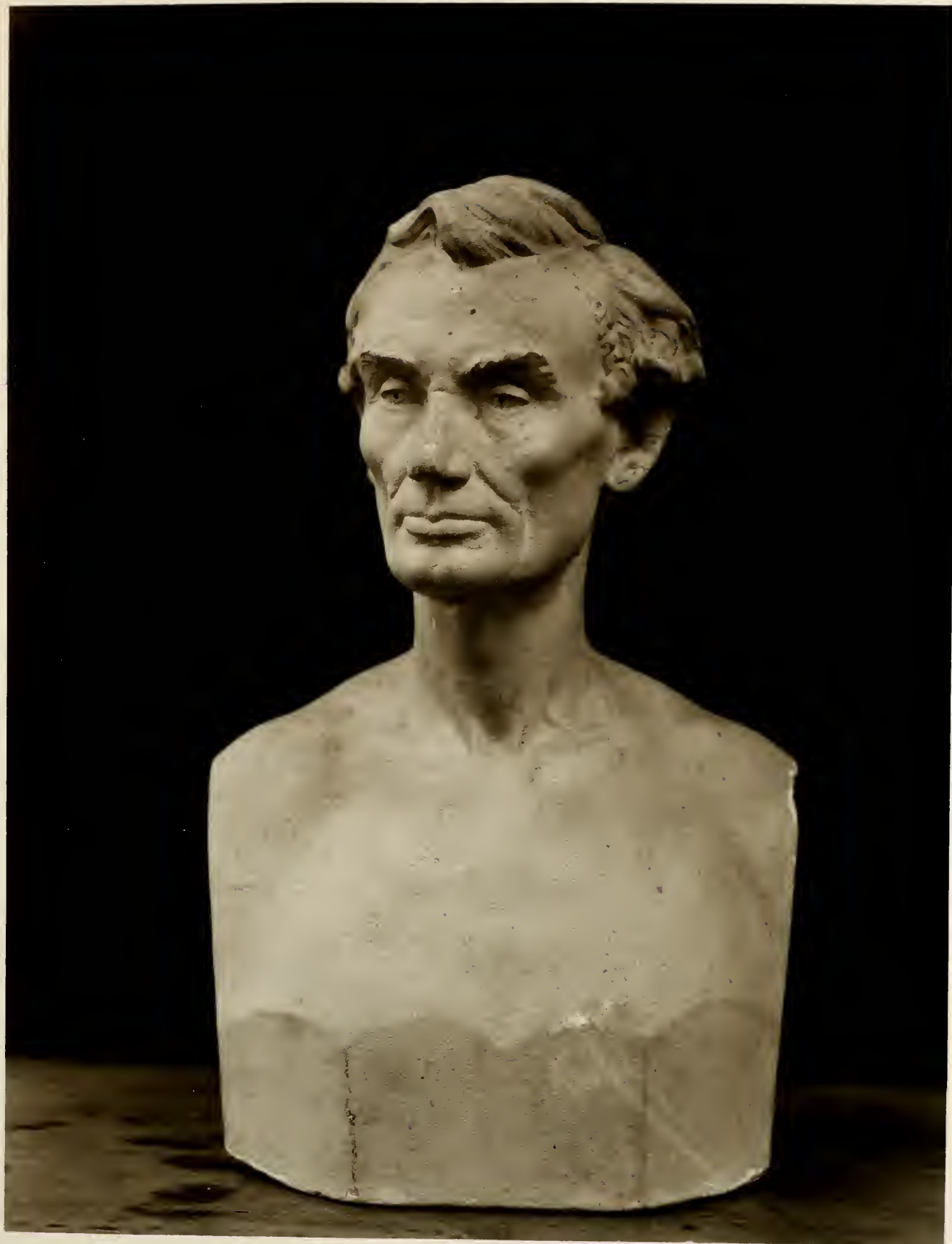
Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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St. Paul, Minn.

13th May 1892

Dear Mr. [unclear]

I have just received your letter of the 11th inst.

THE "HERMES" BUST OF LINCOLN BY VOLK No. 3

After Leonard Volk had finished his sculptured head of Lincoln, which was based on his life mask, he desired to make further measurements in order to create a bust.

According to the sculptor, Lincoln's last sitting was Thursday morning (April 5, 1860). Volk, years later, recalled this visit as follows: "I had finished the head, but desired to represent his breast and brawny shoulders as nature presented them; so he stripped off his coat, waistcoat, shirt, cravat and collar, threw them on the chair, pulled his undershirt down a short distance, tying the sleeves behind him, and stood up without a murmur for an hour or so.

"I then said that I was done, and was a thousand times obliged to him for his promptness and patience, and offered to assist him to redress, but he said: 'No. I can do it better alone.' I kept at my work without looking toward him, wishing to catch the form as accurately as possible while it was fresh in my memory. Mr. Lincoln left hurriedly, saying he had an engagement, and with a cordial 'Good-bye! I will see you again soon,' passed out.

"A few moments after, I recognized his steps rapidly returning. The door opened, and in he came, exclaiming: 'Hello, Mr. Volk! I got down on the sidewalk and found I had forgotten to put on my undershirt, and thought it wouldn't do to go through the streets this way.' Sure enough, there were the sleeves of that garment dangling below the skirts of his broadcloth frock-coat! I went at once to his assistance, and helped to undress and redress him all right, and out he went, with a hearty laugh at the absurdity of the thing."

It has been suggested that a "reminiscent pen" may have gone too far in this instance in describing the sleeves of the undershirt dangling below the skirts of the broadcloth frock-coat. Maybe he was not properly "harnessed up" for the street but the dangling sleeves make the description a little too grotesque.

Volk went to work immediately on a nude bust which he described for the United States Patent Office as follows:

"Be it known that I, Leonard W. Volk, of the city of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have made or produced a new and original Design in Round Relief of a Bust Representing Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same.

"A 'Hermes' bust, viz., head, shoulders, and breast cut off below the pectoral muscles and without drapery or covering of any kind, the head slightly elevated and turned to the right.

"What I claim as my production, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

"The design for a bust as above described, and represented in the accompanying print.

"Leonard W. Volk

"Witnesses:

Isaac D. Arnold

E. B. McCagg"

Volk's application for copyright, witnessed by Hiram Joy and John Vanannan, was received and filed on May 17, 1860, the day before Lincoln was nominated for the presidency. This indicates that the "Hermes" bust was finished several days before the patent application was received by the patent office.

The bust measures twenty-five inches in height and is approximately seventeen inches wide. On the right of the base appears the words "L. W. Volk Sculptor 1860" and on the left "Patented June 12, 1860." Later busts modeled after the original were cut in marble and cast in bronze.

Likewise, small replicas measuring twelve and one-half inches were placed on sale.

A cabinet size "Hermes" bust was presented to Mrs. Abraham Lincoln on May 18, 1860 by the sculptor, while Volk was a visitor in Springfield, Illinois. The sculptor recorded this incident: "I gave her (Mrs. Lincoln) a cabinet-size bust of her husband which I had moulded from the large one." This cabinet size bust must have been made from the working model in the studio and likely precedes the patented one. The present location of this bust, if it is extant, is not known. A cabinet size nude bust was exhibited by the New York State Library at Albany in 1947 but it has a patent date which Mrs. Lincoln's copy probably did not have.

The Women's Relief Corps, Department of Massachusetts unveiled in Boston a bronze replica of the "Hermes" bust in the Massachusetts State Capitol Building on March 28, 1912. Another bronze "Hermes" Lincoln bust was unveiled in Hingham, (Norfolk) England in a prominent niche in St. Andrew's Church. This was a gift of the people of Hingham, Massachusetts, commemorating the English Lincoln ancestors of the Sixteenth President.

The sculptor suffered many infringements of his patent and shortly after Lincoln's nomination for the presidency, Volk's head superimposed upon the shoulders of other men made their appearance. No one knows how many infringement busts were sold or are still being sold.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation has several questionable sculptural works which appear to be infringements on Volk's patent. (See *Lincoln Lore*, No. 1047, May 2, 1949 "Busts of Lincoln by Volk Created In 1860.")

BLONDIN

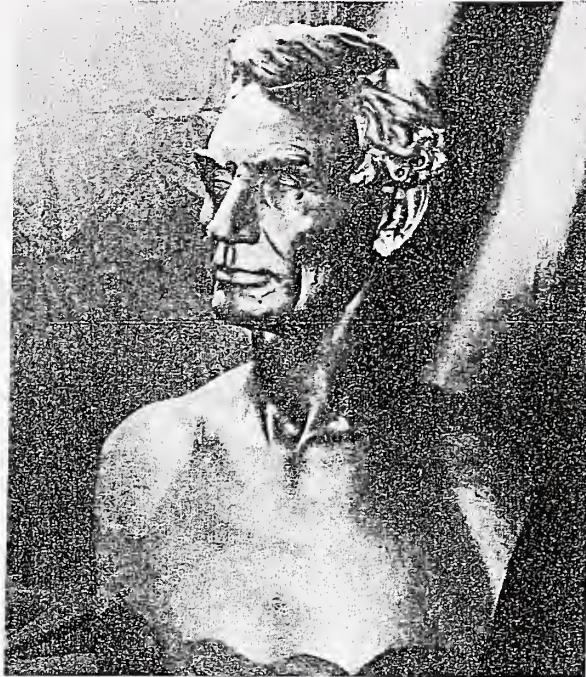
(Continued from page 2)

People (August 1860)" and *Harper's Weekly* for August 25, 1860 published cartoons depicting Lincoln as another Blondin.

Even President Lincoln is reported to have used the name of "Blondin" as a means to put across a point to some visitors variously described as "perturbed politicians of the west;" and as "an excited delegation of clergymen." This disgruntled group, whoever they were, came as critics of the administration and they suggested the course which Lincoln should follow.

Hearing their complaints, Lincoln said at length, "Suppose all the property you were worth was in gold and this you had placed in the hands of Blondin to carry across the Niagara River on a rope. Would you shake the cable and keep shouting at him: 'Blondin, stand up a little straighter; Blondin, stoop a little more, go a little faster, go a little slower, lean a little more to the south'? No, you would hold your breath, as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he got safely over.

"The Government is carrying an enormous weight. Untold treasure is in their hands. Don't badger them. Keep silence and we will get you safely across."



Cuba, Illinois

Sept. 15, 1944

Dear Sirs:

I now have the Lincoln bust I recently wrote you about. I have been unable to find out much about it other than it originally belonged to a county superintendent of schools around 1900. I don't know who it was made by nor when. I would say it was made of Lincoln when he was a comparatively young man, he has a mole on the right side of his cheek not far up from the corner of his mouth. His shoulders are sort of draped in material, he is not wearing a suit, his hair is sort of tousled looking in other words not neatly combed down. I would say his features are very finely done. The bust stands 30" high, and the head measures $29\frac{1}{2}$ " around over the eye brows. There is a small chip in one eye brow and a few minor scratches on the head, outside of that I would say it is in fine shape. The bust itself is made of apparently very fine material as it is very smooth and glossy.

You can let me know if you think you would be interested in a bust of this age and type. It is really a beautiful piece of work.

Thanking you I remain,

Mrs. S. L. Phillips

Volh

September 19, 1944

Mrs. S. L. Phillips
Cuba, Illinois

Dear Madam:

If you will advise us how much you wish to have for the bust which you have acquired we will let you know whether or not we care to acquire it.

Yours very truly,

LAW:vff

Director

Box 347,

Albany 1, N.Y.

August 19, 1945.

Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Sir:-

I am endeavouring to ascertain information in regard the portrait bust of Abraham Lincoln executed by Leonard W. Volk, which must have been posed for in the early part of April of 1860. There was a design patent issued to Volk on this portrait on June 12, 1860, a copy of which patent I have. There is also in my possession a photograph of Volk working on the marble replica of this Lincoln bust, this being the same bust as illustrated in the patent. I also have the "Century Magazine", of December, 1881, which has the article by Volk, "The Lincoln Life-mask and How It Was Made," from which I deduce, that Volk made the mask, a cast of one hand, and must have made the cabinet size bust of which he speaks of as being presented to Mrs. Lincoln, this cabinet size bust in all probability being the customary sculptor's procedure of small study which can be executed rapidly, the mask to establish measurements, and the cast of the hands, being the equipment necessary from which to execute a statue. This bust was destroyed in the Chicago fire.

Have you any further data in regard this bust that you would make available to me, which is in your possession, or may be recorded elsewhere? Is there a marble or plaster original of this bust anywhere in existence? I would also appreciate the courtesy if you would point out any other books or magazines that may have reference to this matter, and if there are any other photographs of the bust. Any fact or information that will aid in completing this information will be intensely appreciated.

That you may know who I am let me say that I procured for the New York State Museum, as a gift, the Stetson-Wells Collection, which is all the papers, letters, photos, sketch-books, numerous complete works, etc., of E. L. Henry, and several other gifts pertinent to American Art History.

Hoping that you will be able to assist me in making my data more replete in regard the Volk Lincoln Bust, and if there is any charge for any of this material, if you will advise me the amount I will forward it, closing, I am,

Yours very truly,

Wilfred Thomas

Wilfred Thomas.

August 24, 1945

Mr. Wilfred Thomas
Box No. 347
Albany, 1, New York

Dear Mr. Thomas:

We have such an abundance of material here on Leonard W. Volk that it would take quite a good sized volume to contain all we have gathered.

I take pleasure in sending you some of the more timely items which you will please receive with my compliments.

The typewritten letter of Mr. Volk is a photostat of the original which is in our collection.

I do not think we can take the time just now to make a bibliography of all the material we have on Mr. Volk but possibly you may find time on some occasion to come here and consult the amount of material we have gathered.

Yours very truly,

LAWRENCE

Director

Box 347
Albany, N. Y.
July 30, 1847.

16
Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:-

I turn to you at the suggestion of the Lincoln family (Mrs. Beckwith) of Manchester Vermont in regard a bust by Volk of President Lincoln.

Enclosed is a page from the "Empire Statesman" with text and an illustration from a photograph of the portrait bust.

The plaster is 12 and $\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. Volk records in the "Century Magazine Scribners monthly, December 1881, "The Lincoln Mark and How it was made", page 227, that the day the nomination was announced he presented Mrs. Lincoln with a Cabinet-size bust. The bust of the illustration is a Cabinet-size bust. The Lincoln family assure me that they do not now have this small size portrait, in writing.

The bust is signed L. W. Volk - 1860 - on the right side of the bust and bears on the left Patented, June 12, 1860. I was able to procure an original issue of this patent from the patent office.

The provenance of this bust is lost to a great extent but was found and purchased from the estate of a very prominent family. It is plausible to feel that the bust was brought to this section by Seward, he having

also the original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, now in the N.Y. & Library.

My searches have produced no other bust of this size, the cabinet-size. It is my wish that folk may have modelled and cast this small one for the specific purpose of presentation to Mrs. Lincoln, as he records. This would be the earliest permanent record of the portrait taken from life and coming into being during the time the settings were given, the portrait completed and the nomination to the presentation.

The bust is a superb piece of sculpture and the patina of time has lent it quality.

The loss of the original marble in the Chicago Fire makes a loss that cannot be estimated.

Is there any assistance you can afford me in this matter of authenticating the small bust or cabinet-size, which I have been unable to locate anywhere, except in Volk's Writings.

Thanking you, awaiting your communication, I am,

Yours very truly
Wilfred Thomas

Box 347, Albany 1, N.Y.

July 31, 1947

Mr. Wilfred Thomas
Box 347
Albany, 1, New York

Dear Mr. Thomas:

We regret to advise you that Dr. Warren
is at present out of the office on vacation. Just as soon
as he returns I will call his attention to your letter.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Moellering
Secretary to Dr. Warren

mm

August 14, 1947

Mr. Wilfred Thomas
Box 347
Albany, 1, New York

My dear Mr. Thomas:

I feel we are not going to be able to assist you very much in the identification of the Volk Bust which you have in your possession.

We had some correspondence about four years ago with Jessie Volk, a dependent who was then living at 215 South 16th Street, Belleville, Illinois. You might write to her and find out if you can if she has any information about this smaller study by Volk. We will be very much interested to learn what you do find out if anything comes from it, as we are vitally interested

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM
L.A. Warren

Box 347,
Albany I,N.Y.
August 19,1947.

Dr.Louis A.Warren,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne,Indiana.

My dear Dr.Warren:-

Thank you for your letter of August 14th in reference to the Cabinet-size portrait of Lincoln by Volk. I observe that in Lincoln Lore, No. 241, November 20, 1933, that the cabinet-size is not listed, but felt that you might have diaries of Volk that would give more information expanding the record that Volk makes in his Century Magazine article.

I sincerely appreciate your giving me Miss Jessie Volk's address, and as you suggest, I have written her today and will let you know what the answer contains. I have heard that there is a relative in Brooklyn that might be of assistance.

In a conversation with Mr. Stefan Lorant at Lenox, Mass., he proposed that I address you, and also suggested Mr. Lauriston Bullard, of Melrose Highlands, Mass., whom I have also addressed.

I am enclosing a copy of Volk's patent for the Lincoln bust. I was fortunate in procuring an original copy of this patent, of the period, but when I ordered more they were O.P., and so I have these reprints, and felt you might wish a copy for your files. The original is printed upon two pages. The original printing is a nice association piece to go with the cabinet-size bust.

I am besieged by the dealers that know I have this portrait. Having had it over a period of several years this is the first time I have had from the development of several war inventions to do any extensive research in regard the bust. It becomes more apparent as one goes along that this is perhaps the earliest extant original in a permanent medium ~~medium~~ of the first portrait in sculpture from life by Volk. It is my opinion that

the bust should go permanently to a public institution where it will be preserved for all time. A friend with intimate connections with the Mellon Gallery in Washington is pressing for it to be acquired for the Nation's Capital. It is evident that the unique cabinet-size portrait has a significance of as great import as the Hick's Painting, the first portrait in oils from life of Lincoln. It has occurred to me that replicas of this bust in bronze available to schools, museums, and individuals, would be of high import in turning the American mind back to the American scene as against the Alien Columns that are from all sides besetting our system, deriding, confusing, corrupting and undermining public thought.

Repeating my appreciation for Miss Volk's address, and assuring you of information that may be acquired in the future, I am ,

Yours very truly,

Wilfred Thomas
Wilfred Thomas.

P. S.

There are three large photographs of the bust, a set, which will be available as soon as my New York Attorney, secures an assignment from "The Empire Statesman" and records the others.

The Director of the Chicago Historical Society could not assist me in any historical facts but did sell me prints from the plate showing Volk working the marble, confirming the cabinet-size bust as of the correct type, as does the patent.

W. T.

August 25, 1947

Mr. Wilfred Thomas
Box No. 347
Albany, 1, New York

My dear Mr. Thomas:

We appreciate very much your sending of the copyright notice or patent of Volk bust.

It occurs to me that you might like to have a letter in photostat copied from the original, which we own, giving some little history of the making of the bust.

Will you please accept it with our compliments.

I trust you may be able to find out whether or not the smaller preceded the larger bust, which has been widely distributed.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JEB
Enc.

Director

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD W. VOLK, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

DESIGN FOR A BUST OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Specification forming part of Design No. **1,250**, dated June 12, 1860.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONARD W. VOLK, of the city of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have made or produced a new and original Design in Round Relief of a Bust Representing Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same.

A "Hermes" bust, viz., head, shoulders, and breast cut off below the pectoral muscles and

without drapery or covering of any kind, the head slightly elevated and turned to the right.

What I claim as my production, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The design for a bust as above described, and represented in the accompanying print.

LEONARD W. VOLK.

Witnesses:

ISAAC D. ARNOLD,
E. B. MCCAGG.

From Thomas
Wilfred 347
Box Albany, N.Y.

No. 1,250.

Leonard W. Volk, Rec^d. and filed May 17, 1860
Design for a Bust of A. Lincoln
Patented June 12, 1860.



Witnesses-
Hiram Joy
John W. Vanaman

Leonard W. Volk

Box 347,
Albany I, N.Y.
Oct. 22, 1947.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Cabinet-Size bust Lincoln by L.W. Volk.

My dear Dr. Warren:-

I am offering the cabinet-size portrait bust for purchase. Your letter of August 14th stating that the Foundation was "vitally interested" prompts me to enclose the following:-

Three large photographs of the bust, showing the signature and dating. (copyrighted).
A photograph showing Volk at work on the correct first portrait of Lincoln. This is furnished thru the courtesy of Mr. Paul Angle of the Chicago Historical Society.
10 pages of manuscript text, research that confirms the bust.
I have already sent you a copy of the Patent issued to Volk.

Thru the copyright office it becomes evident that when Volk was securing copyrights, period of 1870 - 1897, it was of and for "design for statue". These are noted as Statue of Abraham Lincoln, Statuette of A. Lincoln, Right Hand of Lincoln, Left Hand....., Face of, during the period of 1876-1897. No entries appear in the name of C. Hennecke & Co., or Randolph Rogers. All are replicas, copies, etc., and those I have seen are simply dated 1860. A case in point, The Milch Galleries have what is known as the short bust, head, neck, cut at clavicle, on pedestal, smooth-face, which is signed, Modelled from life, Leonard W. Volk, Chicago 1860. Replica. This cabinet size is confirmed as unique, and the only one located, dated June 12, 1860. Evidently waste moulded for the specific purpose noted in the text.

It is my intent to offer the photos, text and patent to an art magazine for publication, there seeming no doubt that it is appropriate for the next Birthday.

To select a value is difficult. The auction record of the Hicks oil portrait is confusing. The original marble, found in 1918, of Washington went to Sweden at a telephone number price. Plasters of Washington by Houdon \$6500 dollars. I believe however we will be able to arrive at a satisfactory decision, if you are interested.

The New York State Library has again requested the bust for exhibition

Page 2.

to be set up this coming Monday, an exhibit to be complimentary to the arrival of the "Freedom Train". The Exhibit will remain for the duration of this celebration.

I point out to you an article in the New York Times, Tuesday, July 29, '47, titled "First Bust of Abraham Lincoln Exhibited in Canal Street Shop." This bust is looking to the left and cannot accord to what Volk states and claims as the first portrait from life in his ~~P~~atent, June 12, 1860. (Page 23).

One of the most pleasing communications came from Mr. Sandburg:-

Dear Sir:-

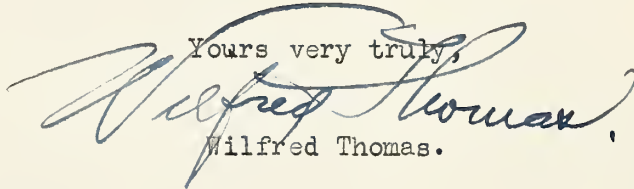
Your letter regarding the Volk bust is received. I regret having no data that would provide an adequate reply to your intelligent inquiry.

Yours,

Carl Sandburg.

Asking you to peruse the material, and communicate with me with any suggestions you may wish to make; I would like the material returned as it is the original; Awaiting your communication, I am,

Yours very truly,


Wilfred Thomas.

October 28, 1947

Mr. Wilfred Thomas
Box 347
Albany, 1, New York

My dear Mr. Thomas:

We appreciate very much your submitting the monograph on the Volk bust and also offering the item to us at the price you have suggested.

I am taking this opportunity of returning your copy and pictures immediately in order that you may submit them to some magazine, as I think you have a very fine story.

With respect to the acquisition of the bust I do not think I could pass upon it at this moment, although there is a possibility we might wish to acquire it.

I have made a careful study of the pictures you submitted along with the full sized bust here in our possession and I note a considerable difference in the detail work of the head. Whether or not your bust is a preliminary study, I am not in a position to say, but apparently, as you suggest, it preceded the larger study.

I will be pleased to advise you if I come across other information which might more clearly identify the copy you have. Furthermore, if you can eventually trace it back to the Lincoln family, we should like to hear from you, as the history of the bust itself, I think would largely determine its real value.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
Encs.

Director

Box 747,
Albany, N.Y.
May 22, 1948.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne Indiana.

Volk's Cabinet-Size Bust of Lincoln.

My dear Dr. Warren:-

I believe the riddle posed in your letter of October 22, 47 may be solved, the tracing of the history back to the Lincolns.

Many years past when the Reed estate was disposed of, it having become an estate, thru the courtesy of Dr. B. M. Hall, then the Director of the New York State Library, my brother and I were permitted to go to the residence, to check and see if missing books or gifts to the library could be found. Among these gifts to the State Library was the original theatre program that Lincoln had in his hand at the moment of the assassination, bloodstained; and to which frame had been added a small round portrait of Lincoln. This was part of a group of Lincoln memorabilia. Many of the Reed archives were bequests to Philadelphia being of Reed, the Signer. I later discovered the Lincoln Bust, Cabinet-size, by Volk and purchased it promptly, having been educated as a sculptor, pupil of Leo Hail, Fuchs and Herbol, this training pointing to me the quality. The estate, after the bequests were removed, was sold to a dealer who removed the remaining to auction in Detroit. Prior to this purchase the lawyer in charge permitted my brother and I to purchase some things.

There being two known significant items from Reed; and Seaward having brought the original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to Albany for Health Society benefit during the civil war; the fact of Robert Todd Lincoln's residence nearby in Manhattan, and the several noted collectors of Albany; all friends; Lorimer of D. and H.; seemed to preclude any chance of ascertaining how the bust came to Albany. The knowledge that Eddy Foy's mother was Mrs. Lincoln's companion, and a lead given me that Mrs. Lincoln used to hold a bust of Lincoln, to which she talked, in her arms, seemed a clue of its having been Foy's mother's property after Mrs. Lincoln's demise. The descendants know nothing. The idea is plausible but could not be confirmed, unless it came to Foy from

his father and when they passed on, the bust came to Auction of his effects, but I have found no conclusive evidence in this matter. Every lead seemed to have been a blind alley.

However, the solution appears in my ascertaining who was John Meredith Reed? The Biographical Dictionary produces the following: (Abstracted)

John Meredith Reed, 1837 - 1906.

..... Active in Presidential Campaign 1860. In that of 1860, the "Wide Awake" movement, which materially aided in carrying the State of New York for Mr. Lincoln, securing Lincoln's election..... In November 1860 became Adjutant General of New York State with rank of Brigadier General. He was Chairman of the Military Governor's Commission which welcomed Lincoln at Buffalo, N.Y., the President Elect, and escorted him to the Capitol at Albany, in February 1861.

Reed's Civil War efforts and services "were of a magnitude to evoke thanks of the United States War Department, etc.etc."

Led in the election of General Grant. Consul General to France and Algeria. Minister to Greece, etc., etc.

A bust found in the Reed estate, having been in the possession of an intimate of Abraham Lincoln, a person that carried New York State for his election; that rendered services innumerable to Lincoln; he being an American patriot, descended from the signer; whose tireless effort in the successful prosecution of the Civil War to an extent of receiving plaudits from all proper sources; Reed continued to act in responsible capacities for Lincoln's General, the President Grant; Reed being a man of parts, antiquarian, and proud of his lineage and accomplishments, a collector who had preserved the theatre program with his friend Lincoln's blood upon it; he must have possessed important documents; who had received and treasured the Lincoln Bust by Volk, can readily be credited as receiving them from the Lincoln's, he being, friend, intimate and White House habitue, having rendered warranted faithful service to the Great Emancipator. The bust stands unique in regard, as to dating, and the only original extant.

Those American Magazines that should publish an article of this type find it so technical altho they devote much space to the European Defilers.

I rest my case believing that the bust is definitely established. This has taken a good ~~many~~ years of working that one can only say has been interesting, a source of pleasure and educating. The bust is more significant than the Dick's painting, in my opinion, and stands with the Washington original by a good deal.

I feel that this bust go, now, into safer quarters, free from the hazard of destruction by fire, which has ruined the two other originals. Some existence, if it is being sold. Please let me have an expression from you.

With kind regards and appreciation of your past courtesy and help,

W. J. Thomas.

P. 2.

Mr. Wunderlich of Kennedy and Co., 785 Fifth Ave, New York, who purchased the Lincoln oil portrait by Hick, at auction is considering the bust. It probably would be of interest to the client that acquired the painting, for whom Wunderlich acted as purchaser.

W. J.

May 25, 1948

Mr. Wilfred Thomas
Box 347
Albany, 1, New York

Dear Mr. Thomas:

It seems to me you have done a very fine job in trying to run down the original of some old cabinet size busts of Lincoln.

Possibly you should encourage the interest of Kennedy and Company because I rather fear our appropriation here for the acquisition of statuary, etc, would not be sufficient to take care of the purchase of your item. We would be pleased, however, to learn if you do sell the bust to Kennedy.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Feb 24/7,
Albany 1, N.Y.
May 27, 1948.

Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:-

Thank you for your letter of May 25th in regard the cabinet-size bust of
Abraham Lincoln, by Leonard Volk, which is in my possession.

It appears from your first paragraph that you did not recall our correspondence
of last year in regard this important sculpture.

The bust stands confirmed as the only original, produced by Volk, during the
actual sittings given by Lincoln, that is extant. The original plaster and the marble
pointed from it having been destroyed in the Chicago Fire. This is the only bust of
its type in existence, and the only one signed and dated in the specific manner,
bearing the patent date June 12 1860. This is the one recorded by Volk as being es-
pecially executed for presentation to Mrs. Lincoln, by Volk, the day of Lincoln's
nomination. It has ever been in the possession of a prominent American and intimate
of Lincoln's until it was acquired by me. By this record it is the most important
likeness of Lincoln that is in existence.

The courtesy of the experts, Sandburg, Bullard, Angle, and other reputable
sources, such as Volk's own records, have made it possible to affirm the above facts. Your
courtesies in no small way have immeasurably contributed to the facts and is deeply
appreciated.

In reviewing the above facts, to refresh your memory of our correspondence
you may have a wish to read the documents again and see the photos for reconsideration.
You may have a friend of the foundation that would acquire the item for you?

Kind regards,

Wilfred Thomas
Wilfred Thomas

Gay McGill

INSURANCE » « NEW YORK LIFE

Telephones: Office 3838 Main 6
Residence 2479 Blue

Room 1, Carr Bldg.
Galesburg, Illinois

May 2, 1949

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I own a bust of Lincoln with the inscription on the side L. W. Volk, Sculptor, 1860. This bust was obtained from Colonel Clark E. Carr, who at one time was United States Ambassador to Denmark, and I am quite sure it is authentic.

I would like to sell this bust of Lincoln and would appreciate it if you will please give me information as to how I should proceed.

Cordially yours,



G.McG:pp

May 6, 1949

Mr. Gay McGill
Room 1, Carr Building
Galesburg, Illinois

Dear Mr. McGill:

It is to be greatly regretted that recently an article appeared in the press indicating the excessive value of a Volk statue discovered in New York.

They are not rare and can very often be picked up for \$30.00 or \$40.00, sometimes much less. New ones can be bought for about \$20.00, however, if you have one of the earlier impressions made in Minneapolis which is 23 inches from shoulder tip to shoulder tip it might be worth \$50.00 although we acquired one including a pedestal recently for \$35.00.

Inasmuch as they are not difficult to buy they could hardly be considered rare pieces.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JM
L.A. Warren

Director



PUBLISHED IN ONE OF THE
MOST EFFICIENT NEWSPAPER PLANTS IN THE WORLD

E. LANSING RAY, PRESIDENT
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St. Louis Globe-Democrat

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING COMPANY
1133 FRANKLIN AVE., ST. LOUIS 1, MO.

GARFIELD 1212

May 8, 1949

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Dr. Warren:

On April 16 last I read an Associated Press dispatch concerning a gift to the Lincoln Museum in Washington by Mr. Henry C. Roberts of a plaster bust of Abraham Lincoln. This bust, made by Leonard W. Volk from the 1860 life mask, was reported in the news story to be valued at \$50,000. A letter from the assistant superintendent of the Lincoln Museum advises that the bust in question was insured for \$50,000 when it was on exhibition at the New York Antiques Fair April 4-9.

I am a devoted Lincoln student and I also have one of these Volk busts, which I prize highly. Can you advise me ~~how~~ many of the busts exist, also how the \$50,000 valuation was arrived at? It is my understanding that there are a very few of the Volk busts; I know of the existence of three.

If you can give me any information on this subject, I will greatly appreciate it. Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. M. Crigler

Edgar M. Crigler
Night Editor,
St. Louis Globe-Democrat,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

May 10, 1949

Mr. Edgar M. Crigler
Night Editor
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
1133 Franklin Street
St. Louis, 1, Mo.

My dear Mr. Crigler:

It is to be greatly regretted that the newspaper story valuing the Volk bust at \$50,000 made its appearance because there is no grounds whatever for such an extravagant and utterly ridiculous appraisal.

We have had a great many letters from people owning Volk busts presenting the same query which you have submitted in your letter.

Just before me there is a magnificent Volk bust which I purchased in Milwaukee where Volk had his busts made. The price tag is still on it, \$35.00. It is a plaster and a very early one. I have seen others sell for as high as \$60.00 but I have never seen one bring as much as \$100.00, that is, in the plaster.

It would be impossible to estimate the great number of these that were produced. We have had scores of them offered to us here and in fact, they can still be purchased from a Chicago House for about \$18.00.

I think possibly I will prepare a little article for Lincoln Lore on the Volk busts and will be pleased to send you a copy when it is ready.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM
L.A. Warren



First Presbyterian Church

JOHN C. INGLIS, MINISTER

325 WEST ASH STREET

PIQUA, OHIO

May 12, 1949

Dr. Lewis A. Warren
Lincoln Memorial Life Foundation
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Through the friendship of my father, in Columbus, Ohio, with Mr. Charles Jones, I am writing to you concerning a bust of Abraham Lincoln that has been in our family for a number of years.

I am presuming upon your time in asking you for the following information. A short time ago there appeared in the newspaper a reference to the L.W.Volk bust of Lincoln. This bust of ours has imprinted on the back "Lincoln from life by L.W.Volk", then immediately below this is a little plate on which is the following: "A. Lincoln from life by L.W.Volk 1860 C. Hennecke and Company, Milwaukee and Chicago.

I am wondering what value or standing this may have in the light of the importance given to one of the originals by Mr. Volk. I would appreciate any information you can give me or information concerning a place to which I might write to gain this information.

Thanks for your kindness and consideration in this matter as father and I have a special interest in things of Lincoln.

Very sincerely yours,

John C. Inglis
John C. Inglis

JCI/jm

Volk

May 16, 1949

Mr. John C. Inglis
325 West Ash Street
Piqua, Ohio

Dear Mr. Inglis:

Many inquiries have come since the appearance of the notice with respect to the Volk bust presented to the Lincoln Museum in Washington.

We have prepared an issue of our bulletin Lincoln Lore for distribution to those inquiring about the bust and as soon as it is off the press we will forward you a copy.

It is easy to say that the \$50,000 estimate of the owner is a foolish exaggeration as \$50.00 would be more like the actual amount it might bring. You will receive the information in more detail when the bulletin is off the press.

Yours very truly,

LAW:MCL
L.A. Warren

Director

May 25, 1949

Mr. Wesley H. Benson
E.F.D. No. 1
Fairfax, Virginia

Dear Mr. Benson:

We are preparing a little bulletin on the Volk bust which we will be pleased to forward to you when it is ready.

Of course the estimated value of the bust is one that is greatly exaggerated as such stories usually are, and I hope you will not be disappointed in learning that there are a great many of these buses and they are all of very little value.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Fairfax, Va
5/18/99

Dear Mr. Warren,

Recently the Wash. Post paper carried an article stating that Henry C. Roberts of New York had presented a bust of Lincoln to the Wash. Museum. This bust is a copy of an original by L. W. Volk dated 1860.

I believe I have a duplicate of this bust.

This bust was insured for \$50,000 by its owner.



2.

I was referred to you by
a Museum clerk who answered
my call. So am taking the
liberty in writing you for
any advice as to whom to
contact for selling some.

I sincerely hope you can
find time to write me
soon.

Yours truly

Wesley H. Benson

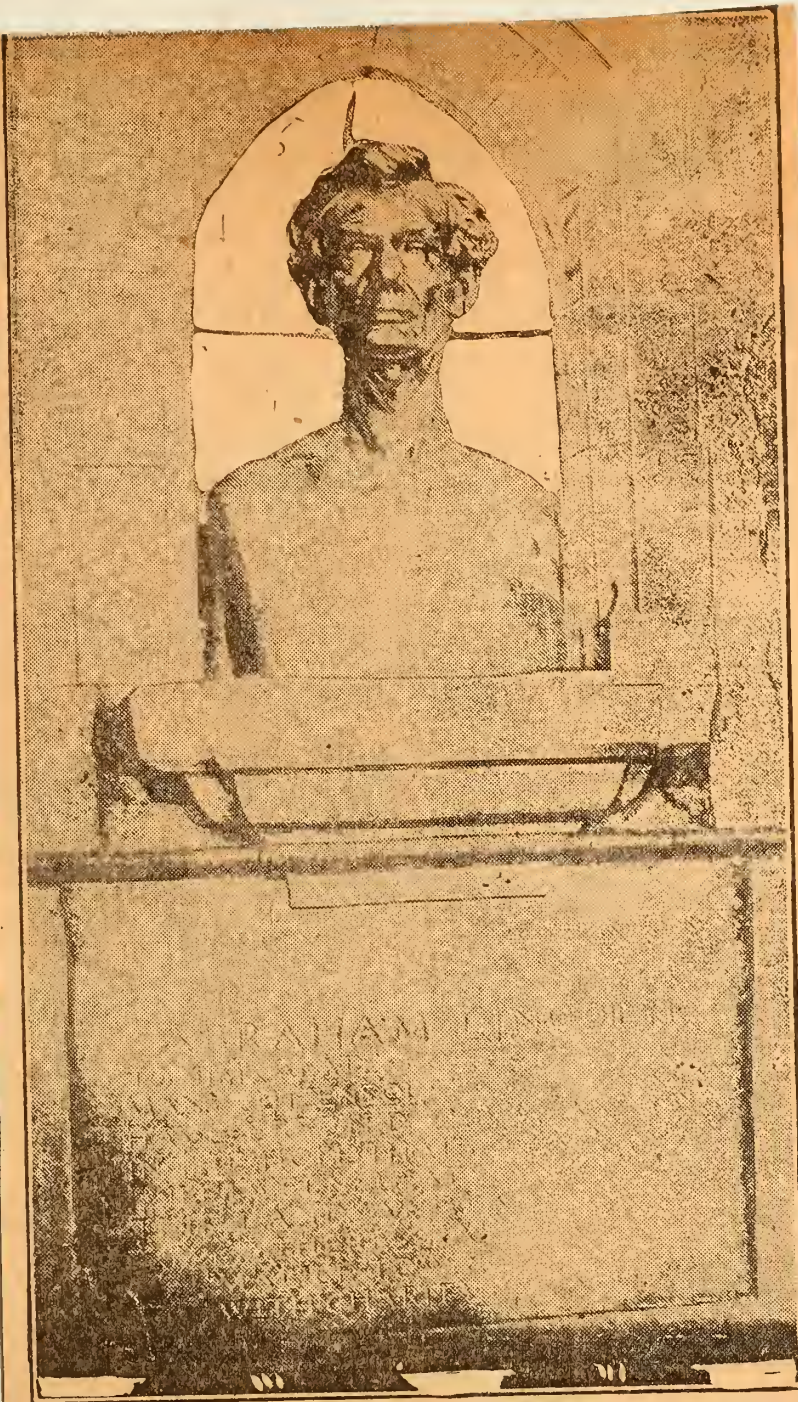
R.F.I. #1

Fairfax, Va.

BUST OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN UNVEILED IN HINGHAM, ENGLAND.

American Ambassador Davis unveiled a bust of Abraham Lincoln in the Parish Church, Hingham, England, October 15th, 1919. The town was the birthplace of Samuel Lincoln, an ancestor of President Lincoln.

See Slates Hist Soc Oct 1919



Bust of Abraham Lincoln, made by Leonard Volk. The Leonard Volk bust was chosen for a niche in the church in Old Hingham, England, where Samuel Lincoln, the great-great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, was baptized in 1688. The inscription under it is as follows:

"In This Parish for Many Generations
Lived the Lincolns,
Ancestors of the American,
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

To Him, Greatest of That Lineage, Many Citizens of
the United States Have Erected This Memorial in the
Hope That for All Ages Between That Land and This
Land and All Lands There Shall Be
'Malice Towards None
With Charity for All.'"

(From the collection of H. P. Lincoln of Williamsport, Pa.)

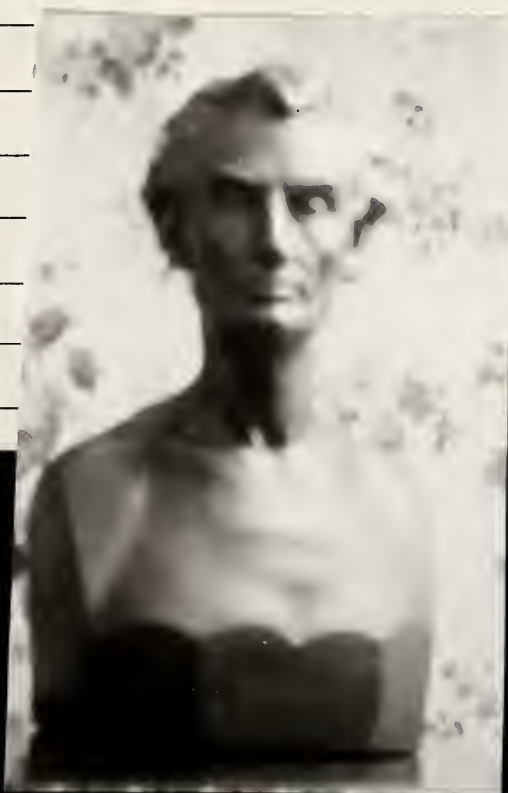
Dec 6th 1951

Dear Dr Warren;

The cabinet size Volto
bust is for sale - Any inquiries
would appreciate directing to me.

Yours very truly

Geo. W. Simmons
Box 629
Freeport, Me





Its name indicates its character

The Lincoln National Life Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana

DR. LOUIS A. WARREN
DIRECTOR

December 11, 1951

Mr. George W. Simmons
Box 629
Freeport, Illinois

My dear Mr. Simmons:

We often have inquiries about Volk busts and if you will tell the exact height of yours and the price at which you are holding it possibly we may find a purchaser.

Very truly yours,

Louis A. Warren

LAW:PE

Director

Dear Mr. Warren:

*Thanks for your answer -
the Bust is 13" in height - Have
written of price.*

G. W. W. Simmons

York State waters during 1946 have just been issued by the Conservation Department.

Of special significance is the closing of Canandaigua Lake and its tributaries this year to the taking of smelt by scapping or dipping. The Department's investigation revealed that the lake's population of smelt, staple food of the lake trout, was insufficient to permit further reduction.

Spear and Longbow Fishing

The State Conservation Department 1946 spearing order says spears and longbows may be used to take bullheads, carp, catfish, dogfish, eels, garpike, mullet and suckers in certain waters not inhabited by trout and during specified intervals.

Persons who must have a license to take fish by angling must also possess such license to take fish by spear or longbow. Such license does not authorize any person to enter upon private lands or waters nor to spear fish within 50 rods of eel weirs.

Trees Snapped Up

All trees which were produced for the State Conservation Department's forest planting stock for this season's distribution to landowners and municipalities have been sold and no more are available, Commissioner Duryea has announced.

The increased interest in tree planting resulted in an avalanche of orders for the entire 5,000,000 trees available for this spring's planting.

Arthur F. Amadon, superintendent of tree nurseries, explained that no tree seeds were sown in the nurseries during the early part of the war but in the spring of 1944 a modest planting was made in the hope that the war would be over by the time the seedlings were 2 or 3-year olds. The big demand for seedlings this spring has justified that policy, Mr. Amadon said, as well as the sowing of an increased number of seeds (26,000,000) in 1945 for next year's plantings. Another 26,000,000 seeds are to be sown this year.

Forest Fire Fighting Conference

Attended by 130 district forest rangers, forest rangers and district foresters, the supervising personnel of the forest fire fighters throughout the state, the 4th annual forest fire control conference was held early last month at Bear Mountain.

"The purpose of the conference," Kinne F. Williams, state superintendent of forest fire control, said, "was to keep the men abreast of the new-

est methods and developments in the technique and science of fire suppression."

Intensification of training was found necessary because fire hazards have greatly increased. The excessive slash remaining from intensive lumbering during the war period, highly inflammable accumulations of dried leaves, grasses and weeds resulting from lush growth in 1945, plus an increased public use of the forests and open areas all spell greater fire danger.

"Last year with the help of favorable weather our forest fires were kept to a near-record low," Mr. Williams said. "This year we intend to maintain that record despite greater hazards."

EDUCATION

Pushes Survey

The Rapp committee on education has started on the last lap of a 4-year job. Its assignment is to map proposed central school districts.

It has just completed its blueprint for 14 additional counties, which makes a total of 43 counties done, and it has 14 to go. The committee was organized in 1940 and in 1943 drew up its master plan.

The counties included in its 1945 report are Delaware, Erie, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Sullivan, Warren and Wyoming.

To be studied in 1946 are Albany, Chemung, Dutchess, Jefferson, Lewis, Nassau, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Saratoga, Suffolk, Schenectady, Ulster, and Westchester. Hearings on proposals of 4—Dutchess, Jefferson, Oneida, and Onondaga—already have been conducted.

The committee expects also to complete by Jan. 1, 1947 a total recodification and revision of the education law. This too will have taken several years. Chairman of the committee is Assemblyman Herbert A. Rapp, Genesee. Director Robert M. Scott is in charge.

Bust of Lincoln

A bust of Abraham Lincoln approximately 12 inches high by Leonard W. Volk, believed to be the model presented Mrs. Lincoln by the sculptor, was placed on exhibition last month in the rotunda of the State Education Building. It is part of the State Library exhibition recently opened by Governor Dewey and will be there until the end of April. Also included in the exhibition is the original manuscript of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which has been the property of



J. A. Glenn
Volk's Bust of Lincoln
June 12, 1860

the State Library since 1865.

Loaned to the library from a private collection, the bust was produced from sittings by Lincoln in Volk's Chicago studio in 1860. Mrs. Lincoln once declared it the most perfect likeness of her husband ever made.

FLOOD CONTROL

1946 Program

In its 11th annual report the New York State Flood Control Commission outlines a comprehensive program of 37 projects involving a federal-state capital investment of \$60,239,119. Of this amount \$56,530,460 will be provided by the federal government and \$3,708,659 by the state. The state money has already been appropriated as well as about \$10,000,000 of the federal.

Four reservoirs are to be started this year in Canacadea Creek at Almond above Hornell; Ouleout Creek at East Sidney, Delaware County; Onondaga Creek at Syracuse; and Mt. Morris Reservoir on Genesee River, South Rock.

Channel improvements will be undertaken in 1946 at Tuscarora Creek, Cohocton River, Addison, Steuben County; Cohocton River, Bath, Steuben County; Canisteo River, Canisteo, Steuben County; Chemung River, Elmira, Chemung County; Dudley Creek and Tiough-tioga River, Lisle, Broome County; Tiough-tioga River, Whitney Point, Broome County; Onondaga Creek, Syracuse; Cayuga Creek, Lancaster, Erie County.

The following have been completed: 2 reservoirs at Whitney Point

December 13, 1976
8802 W. Mitchell St.
West Allis, Wis. 53214

Mr. Mark E. Neely Jr., Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mr. Neely:

I am indebted to Mr. Frank Klement, of our city, for giving your name as an interested person who collects Lincoln Artifacts.

I have in my possession a "Life Size Bust Of Abraham Lincoln--inscribed on it's side--L. W. Volk-Sculptor 1860". This is Abraham Lincoln without a beard. It is 26 inches high and is made of plaster. It is completely hollow. This, I believe, was called "The Death Mask of Abraham Lincoln" as there are no pupils in his eyes.

Mr. Klement personally viewed this bust and was very much interested in seeing it.

A copy of a news article showing the bust is enclosed to give you an idea as to how it looks.

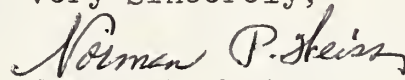
I also have in my possession a "Last Wallpaper Edition of the Vicksburg Mississippi Newspaper", dated July 2, 1863. Mr Klement also viewed this and believes it to be authentic.

The reason for this writing to you at this time is to inform you and your associates that these articles are for sale.

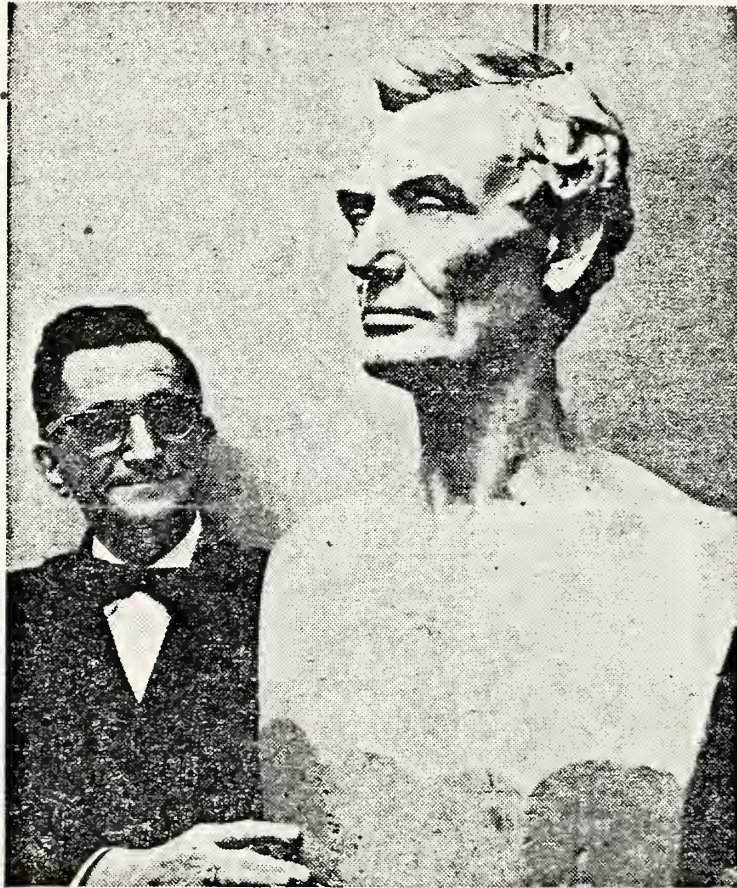
They can be viewed at my home by appointment.

I would appreciate hearing from you.

Very Sincerely,


Norman P. Weiss

P.S. I can be reached by phone in the mornings at 1-414-774-3843
West Allis is a suburb of Milwaukee, Wis.



Norman Weiss, 8802 W. Mitchell st., admires the lifesize bust of Abraham Lincoln he owns. The rare art piece has special significance this week since Friday is the Civil War president's birthday. A nearly identical bust of the former president is on display at the Lincoln Museum in Washington, D. C.

STAR Photo

Waiss

*Clipping filed in:
Bust - Volk, Herman*

January 13, 1977

Mr. Norman P. Weiss
8802 W. Mitchell St.
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

Dear Mr. Weiss:

As we already own an example of this very fine bust, we would not be interested in purchasing another ourselves. However, if you have a price in mind and can tell me, I might be able to suggest a private collector who would be interested. On the other hand, you might want it to go to an institutional collection without exception.

Confederate newspapers are a bit out of our line here, but I have been asked about wallpaper editions of Vicksburg papers before, and that leads me to believe that there must be some facsimiles around. You had best write the Vicksburg National Military Park, Box 349, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180, to ask about it.

I am enclosing a copy of one of our past bulletins which describes the nature of your Lincoln bust. As you can see, it is not a death mask at all, and in fact dates from the period even before he had grown his beard.

If you see Dr. Klement again, do please give him my regards and thanks for thinking of us. If you have further questions about items of Lincolniana, by all means write any time.

Yours truly,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/sks

Enc: L.L. # 1423

VanHorn, Cindy

From: Dr. R M Rowe [martel9@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 2:32 PM
To: VanHorn, Cindy
Subject: Re: A visitor to thelincolnmuseum.org is contacting you

Cindy VanHorn:

Lincoln was nominated Friday .May 18,1860 - not Thursday. Leonard Volk did give Mrs. Lincoln cabinet size bust Thursday on month of June 14-21 or 28. Bust dated June 6,1860. No other cabinet size owned by Mrs..Lincoln was ever found. Sketch of my bust on a whatnot in Lincoln front parlor. Lincoln did own two 32" by Volk. Leonard Volk recalled this information what happend twenty years ago-He visited Lincoln May 18,1860 and also in June.

Robert M. Rowe

Item information

Smithsonian control number 9D630005

R. M.Rowe

----- Original Message -----

From: "VanHorn, Cindy" <CJVanHorn@lnc.com>
To: "R. M. Rowe" <martel@surfbest.net>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2005 10:12 AM
Subject: RE: A visitor to thelincolnmuseum.org is contacting you

According to an article written by Leonard Volk for "The Century Magazine" in 1881, he gave the cabinet size bust to Mrs. Lincoln on Thursday, May 18, the day that Mr. Lincoln received the nomination of the Republican Convention for their presidential candidate for the 1860 election.

Cindy VanHorn
Registrar & Library Assistant
The Lincoln Museum
200 E. Berry Street
Fort Wayne IN 46802
<http://www.TheLincolnMuseum.org>

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-----Original Message-----

From: R. M. Rowe [mailto:martel@surfbest.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2005 1:41 PM
To: Museum, Lincoln
Subject: A visitor to thelincolnmuseum.org is contacting you

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by R. M. Rowe (martel@surfbest.net) on April 6th, 2005

realname: R. M. Rowe
address:
city:
state:
zip-code:
phone:
email: martel@surfbest.net
comments-questions: Lenard Volk gave Mrs. Lincoln cabinet size bust of husband on one of three dates une 14-21 or 28 1860. Does anyone go which date ?

In my coollection I have the bust.
website siris.si.edu bottom third paragraph click art inventories "owner
browse box" put rowe
guestbook: yes
join-email: yes
Submit: Submit

----- Env Report -----

REMOTE_HOST:
REMOTE_ADDR: 63.21.27.198
HTTP_USER_AGENT: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 5.5; Windows 98; Win 9x 4.90;
AT&T CSM6.0)

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VanHorn, Cindy

From: Dr. R M Rowe [martel9@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 3:45 PM
To: VanHorn, Cindy
Subject: Cabenit size bust of Lincoln

Cindy VanHorn:

Nomination of Lincoln May 18, 1860-Friday. not Thursday that you wrote. Bust of Lincoln was given to Mrs Lincoln on Thursday in month of June. Bust is dated June 12, 1860, given to Mrs. Lincoln on 14-21 or 28, 1860 as leonard Volk states in letter in Century magazine December 1860. Sketh of bust in Leslie drawing parlor of Lincoln's home. Lincoln did have two 32"plaster of himself by Volk. No other cabinet size bust were ever found. Volk negeted to say he visted Lincoln on May 18, 1860 and June. twenty years ago. Smithsonian museum control number 9D630005

6/8/2007